



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

CALENDAR ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, October 23, 2014 T. C. Passios Building- 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Calendar Advisory Committee

Superintendent

Colleen Shapiro – School Committee
Ronald Hyatt – SAC LHS
Ashley Wheeler-SAC LHS- absent
Gary Asher – Former Lunenburg Family Practice, Heath Advisory Committee
Brandon Kibbe – SAC LPS
Amanda Waltz – Parent- absent
Lou Bettencourt – Parent
Heather Sroka – School Committee
Ami Powers – SAC THMS
Katie McGuire- SAC LHS- absent

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* Call to Order : 7:05 Meeting Called to order and members went around the table and introduced themselves and who they represented.

* Advisory Organization-Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary: We could not vote on Advisory Organization – Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary because meeting and agenda were not posted in time at town hall.

* Review Charge and Timeline; We reviewed Charge of “To discuss and make recommendations on school calendar on vacations, start/end date and start and end time, and report back to school committee our findings”.
Proposed calendar needs to be presented to school committee by December 3rd meeting, to be finalized by December 2014. Start and End times need to be submitted by March 2015. Issues discussed were the interest of half day and scheduling of half days. DOE regulations on hours and days – 990 Hours as minimum, 180 days, with teacher contract being 183/ 184 new teachers. 3 days used for Full Day Professional Development, ½ days used for more PD, MCAS dates, contractual pieces that if changed would need to be re-negotiated.

Teachers commented they liked having the 2 days PD before school started, felt better prepared for students arrival.

Question brought up about surrounding districts/towns and what their school calendar looked like. Specifically start date (before or after labor day), Observation of religious Holidays, Length of December break, Second Semester vacations, amount of half days, PD days and End of School year date. Looking to obtain copies from Westford, Fitchburg, Lancaster, Littleton, Groton, Ayer/Shirley, Leominster, to use for a data point in recommendation.

Question was raised if we moved to a single vacation in second semester, would that impact our Athletic Departments in terms of practices and games. Copy of Athletic Department schedule will be requested. Use for a data point in recommendation.

Question was raised regarding our town demographics. Can we determine how many dual employed families, or single working families, to help determine population and their child care needs. Use for a data point in our recommendation.

Suggested to bring a survey to the district – parents and students. Use Survey Monkey, Twitter, and Lunenburg Ledger. 3 questions to gauge communities interest in the following areas:

- 1) do you support starting before labor day or after
- 2) do you prefer an extended December break
- 3) are you in favor of a single second semester vacation week.

Other areas would be filled in around this – 4 day weekends, ending school earlier in June. Same result is 180 school days, just the shifting around of vacations and start and end dates.

Discussed our role as Calendar Advisory Committee – we bring recommendations to the School committee on school beginning and ending dates, vacations and start and end times. Noted that there is another Calendar committee, a faculty only committee, mandated by their teacher contract, also goes to School committee. This is the first year of the Calendar Advisory Committee.

* *Establish Meeting Schedule:*

Meeting schedule established as the following:

Thursday Oct 30, 2014 7:15

Thursday Nov 13, 2014 7:15

Thursday Nov 20, 2014 7:15

Monday Nov 24, 2014 7:15

Wednesday Dec 3, 2014 7:00pm ** Present to School Committee meeting.

Thursday Dec 11, 2014 7:15

* *Review of Parameters for School Calendar & Community Feedback-Superintendent Calmes:*

Superintendent will communicate back to other Calendar Committee. Due to open law policy, no member of the advisory committee may discuss anything from these meeting in person, or social media. Members may post and share survey links, but are not to discuss with other members of committee.

* *Public Comment* : No public comment at this meeting.

* *Adjournment:* Meeting adjourned 9:05pm.